

Halcyon coromandus Sharpe, Cat. Birds B. M. xvii. p. 217 (1892).

The Ruddy Kingfisher inhabits the lakes and rivers of the interior of Formosa.

[To be continued.]

VII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

1. 'Annals of Scottish Natural History.'

[The Annals of Scottish Natural History. Nos. 59 & 60, July and October 1906.]

The first paper on our subject is by Mr. W. Eagle Clarke, who enumerates and remarks upon the rare visitants which occurred at Scottish observation-stations in the first half of 1906. These are the Rustic Bunting, the Desert-Wheatear, the Ortolan Bunting, and an example of the remarkably grey Asiatic race of the Skylark. In the October number Mr. Clarke records a new visitor to Great Britain, namely, the Red-rumped Swallow (*Hirundo rufula*), observed at Fair Isle on June 2nd in a party of Common Swallows and picked up dead some ten days afterwards. An example of this southern species was obtained at Heligoland on May 30th, 1855, and had doubtless overshot the mark on the spring-migration, as in the present case. It may be noted that under the name *H. daurica* Prof. R. Collett has recorded the occurrence of a closely-allied—or perhaps even the same—species at Syd Varanger on May 31st, 1905. Later (p. 236), as the result of a very recent visit to Fair Isle, Mr. Clarke and his companion Mr. Kinnear record, among other rarities, the Scarlet Grosbeak, the Red-breasted Flycatcher, the Little and Ortolan Buntings, the Yellow-browed Warbler, and—for the first time in Scotland—the Reed-Warbler.

Since this was written, Mr. Clarke has exhibited at the British Ornithologists' Club an example of *Phylloscopus tristis* from Suliskerry (26th Sept., 1902), also new to the British avifauna (*cf.* Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 18). Mr. John

Paterson's careful Report on Scottish Ornithology for 1905 (pp. 140-150, 196-205) contains many other allusions to the birds of Fair Isle, and, judging from the number of acknowledgments for assistance, there can be no lack of cooperation in making returns. Among the interesting records under "Zoological Notes" we notice the southward extension of the breeding-range of the Fulmar Petrel, as well as the nesting of the Grey Lag-Goose in the Tay area.—H. S.

2. *Arrigoni degli Oddi on Fuligula homeyeri.*

[Nuove osservazioni sulla cattura della *Fuligula homeyeri* Baed. nel Veneto. Boll. d. Soc. Zool. Ital. 1906.]

The author writes upon the Diving Duck called *Fuligula homeyeri*, which is generally acknowledged to be a hybrid between the Common Pochard (*F. ferina*) and the Ferruginous Duck (*F. nyroca*), and gives us particulars concerning three specimens of it that have occurred in Northern Italy. He enumerates the examples of this bird known to him in various collections—fourteen in all.

3. 'The Auk.'

[The Auk. A Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Vol. xxii. Nos. 3 & 4, July and October 1906.]

Mr. Witmer Stone records his view of a continuous migration of birds during the night of March 27th, when the sky was lighted up by a tremendous conflagration at Philadelphia; the birds—mainly Finches—following a line parallel to the Delaware River, and, in some cases, getting burned on the way. The same author furnishes an important Bibliography and Nomenclator of the Ornithological Works of Audubon (pp. 298-312), and later (pp. 361-368) three unpublished letters of Alexander Wilson, with one from John Abbot to George Ord, written from Georgia in 1814 and specially interesting. Far more important, however, is Mr. Ruthven Deane's second instalment of the correspondence between Audubon and Spencer F. Baird, from 1840 to 1842. Mr. E. S. Cameron, M.B.O.U., contributes a pleasant

account of the nesting of the Great Blue Heron (*Herodias alba*) in Montana, with two plates; and Mrs. Irene G. Wheelock describes the breeding-habits of the Green Heron (*Butorides virescens*), with an illustration of the young at the age of one week. The "preliminary sketch" of the "Birds of Louisiana," commenced in the January number by Messrs. Beyer, Allison, and Kopman, is concluded in July, and we now await the List. The unusual abundance of the Snowy Owl during the winter of 1905-6, when over 800 were recorded from Nova Scotia westward to Nebraska and between Manitoba in the north and Missouri in the south, forms the subject of a carefully-compiled paper by Mr. Ruthven Deane. In Western Mexico, Mr. H. H. Bailey landed at San Blas in order to visit the Tres Marias and Isabel Islands; the photographs of the Boobies, Frigate-birds, and Tropic-birds in their breeding-haunts are as good as the descriptions. "A-Birding in an Auto," by Mr. M. S. Ray, is an account of a run down the coast of California from Stockholm to Los Angeles, and back by an inland route, on which the Californian Condor was seen in two localities. Mr. James H. Fleming's account of the Water-birds of Toronto, Lake Ontario, is especially interesting, because the area described "lies directly in the path of a great migratory route equidistant from the Atlantic, the Mississippi and James Bay" [southern end of Hudson Bay]. Mr. C. W. Beebee gives the results of his experiments with a living example of *Larus atricilla* from February to April. He shews (in a manner which is quite convincing to the writer of this notice) that no increase of colour takes place in the individual white feather of winter, and that every feather which is dark slate-coloured in spring starts so from its sheath. He also states that during the moult "the entire sheath of the mandibles peels off; in one case a large piece coming off at once, showing the fresh horn beneath bright carmine in colour." Among the "General Notes" is a record of an Eskimo Curlew (*Numenius borealis*) which came on board the S.S. 'Baltic,' bound for New York, about 2 P.M. on May 26th, 1906, midway between Ireland and

Newfoundland. Although fatigued, "it gave evidence of having eaten within a few hours," perhaps on board some ship going eastward; and it fed heartily on chopped meat and chicken, though it died shortly before Sandy Hook was reached. The incident throws some light on "assisted passages"; though in this case fortune led to the re-conduction of the bird to the Western Hemisphere. We have passed over several papers of local interest, but the remarks of Mr. F. A. Lucas on the authenticated speed of birds in contrast with estimates and calculations may be read with advantage on this side of the Atlantic. Those of us who are interested in the Protection of Birds may well envy the National Association of Audubon Societies the bequest of \$100,000 by the late Albert Wilcox, of New York City, who had been a generous benefactor during life. £20,000, saddled with no conditions as to maintaining a library or a museum out of the parish rates (prodigious!). "There is need, however, for further increase of funds, and it is hoped that other bequests may follow."—H. S.

4. 'The Avicultural Magazine.'

[Avicultural Magazine. The Journal of the Avicultural Society. New Series. Vol. iv. Nos. 10-12, Vol. v. No. 1. London: August to November 1906.]

The most important papers in these numbers are those on the Violet-eared Waxbill (*Estrellda granatina*) by Mr. R. Phillipps, and on the genus *Coturnix* by Mr. D. Seth-Smith, each with a coloured plate. Of the first species—which we should hardly call a "visitor" to this country—a good account is given by the author, and we are glad to be able to inform him, from personal observation in the Bulawayo bush, that the bird is certainly found in considerable flocks in August, and appears to breed there later in the year. Mr. Seth-Smith's notes on monogamy in the genera *Synceus* and *Excalfactoria* and polygamy in *Coturnix* are a special point in his paper.

Several species are reported as having bred and reared

their young in Britain, apparently for the first time. Among these are *Columba tympanistris* (Dr. Butler), *Tachyphonus melaleucus* (Mr. Teschemaker), pl., *Sycalis arvensis* (Mr. Seth-Smith), and *Palaornis magnirostris* (Mr. Boughton-Leigh), while further information is given with regard to the nesting of other forms.

Mr. Newman discusses *Turtur decaocta* (pl.), and proposes to separate the Burmese race as *T. d. xanthocyclus*; Mr. Meade-Waldo gives his experiences with regard to birds on the yacht 'Valhalla' (pl.); Dr. Butler writes on hybrid *Ploceide* (col. pl.) and various Passerine forms; Mr. Astley on the food of Nightingales; Mr. Collingwood Ingram on the breeding of Humming-birds; the Duchess of Bedford on foreign birds at Woburn; and Mrs. Johnstone on *Trichoglossus johnstoniæ*.

5. *Berlepsch and Stolzmann on Peruvian Birds.*

[Rapport sur les nouvelles collections ornithologiques faites au Pérou par M. Jean Kalinowski. Par Hans Graf von Berlepsch et Jean Stolzmann. *Ornis*, xiii. pp. 63-133 (1906).]

In this article the authors continue their account of the extensive collections made in Peru from 1894 to 1899 by Mr. Kalinowski*. After an itinerary, in which the various localities explored by that assiduous collector are described, it is recorded that at Cadena, in the province of Cuzco, in July 1899 M. Kalinowski was shot at by an Italian settler without any provocation and was severely wounded. He was, however, taken care of by some kind Samaritans (English, American, and French), and after a long illness restored to health, after which he returned to his farm at Cadena.

The birds collected by M. Kalinowski are treated in five sections, according to their localities:—

(1) Those from the Department of Ayacucho, Western Peru, 32 species; (2) those from Santa Ana, in the Province of La Convencion, Central East Peru, 133 species; (3) those from the northern part of the Department of Cuzco

* See Berl. et Stolzmann, P.Z.S. 1896, p. 322; and 'The Ibis,' 1901, pp. 716-719.

13 species : (4) those from the valley of Marcapata, Department of Cuzco, 163 species ; (5) those from the Department of Puno, South Peru, 60 species.

The following 14 species and subspecies are described as new in this memoir :—

1. *Pogonospiza* (gen. nov.) *mystacalis brunneiceps*.
2. *Tanagra darwini læta*.
3. *Basileuterus signatus*.
4. *Geothlypis canicapilla assimilis*.
5. *Euphonia lanirostris peruviana*.
6. *Buthraupis cucullata saturata*.
7. *Sporophila gutturalis inconspicua*.
8. *Lophotriccus squamigeristatus hypochlorus*.
9. *Myiozetetes similis connivens*.
10. *Myiobius navius saturatus*.
11. *Nothura maculosa peruviana*.
12. *Synallaxis curtata debilis*.
13. *Conopophaga ardesiaca saturata*.
14. *Calospiza argentea fulvigula*.

The type of the proposed new genus *Pogonospiza* is *Pipilo mystacalis* Tacz., which is probably identical with *Buarremon nationi* Selater, P. Z. S. 1881, p. 485, pl. xlvi.

6. *Brewster's 'Birds of Massachusetts.'*

[The Birds of the Cambridge Region of Massachusetts. By William Brewster. Cambridge, Mass., July 1906. 1 vol. 4to. 426 pp.]

This important work, prepared by one of the best known authorities on North-American Birds, has been long expected, we believe, by his brother ornithologists in the U.S. It forms the fourth number of the Memoirs of the Nuttall Ornithological Club, at whose request the task of writing it was undertaken by Mr. Brewster upwards of ten years ago.

The following extracts from the preface explain the general scope of the work, which is, of course, specially intended for those interested in the Ornis of the Cambridge District :—

“ No attempt is made to give full life-histories of the birds. On the contrary I have abstained from saying anything about their habits, songs, &c., save in cases where some

mention of these and kindred matters has seemed essential to a clearer understanding of the reasons governing the local occurrence or distribution of certain of the species, or desirable for the purpose of rendering commonplace or otherwise tedious details more attractive. What I have chiefly had in mind has been to state as definitely as possible the times and seasons when each species has been noted, the numbers in which it has occurred at long past as well as in very recent times, and the precise character, and in some instances also the situation, of its favourite local haunts."

In carrying out this plan Mr. Brewster has had the co-operation of a large number of friends, many of whose names are familiar to us, besides the advantage of the labours of previous ornithologists (such as Nuttall, Cabot, and Bryant) who have studied the Avifauna of this district.

The first portion of Mr. Brewster's volume is devoted to a general account of the "Cambridge Region" and its special localities for birds. Then follows an "Annotated List" of the species, according to the arrangement and nomenclature of the American 'Check-list.' The number of species and subspecies recognised as occurring within the Cambridge area is 248. A coloured figure is given of Brewster's Linnet (*Acanthis brewsteri*), founded by Mr. Ridgway on a single specimen shot by Mr. Brewster in 1870 out of a flock of Redpolls. As no other examples of this obscure form have been obtained it is probably a sport or "possibly a hybrid between *Acanthis linaria* and *Spinus pinus*," as now suggested by Mr. Ridgway.

7. Chapman on the Birds of New York.

[The Birds of the Vicinity of New York City. Guide Leaflet No. 22. Reprinted from the American Museum Journal. By Frank M. Chapman. New York, 1906. 8vo. 96 pp.]

This guide to the Local Collection of Birds in the Department of Ornithology of the American Museum of Natural History must be found extremely useful by visitors to that establishment, and is based upon a most admirable plan.

The specimens are placed under two headings: firstly, systematic, including groups of permanent, summer, and winter residents, transient and accidental visitors; secondly, seasonal, with groups for every month. Nearly all the birds exhibited have been procured within fifty miles of New York, in a district most favourably situated, that includes in its rich avifauna species from both the Alleghanian and Carolinian areas, which overlap at this point.

An annotated list of the local birds is also given, with a bibliography and an index; while several full-page plates and many text-figures embellish the work, the latter—not always satisfactory—being taken, with one exception, from Coues's 'Key to North American Birds.'

A great amount of useful information is incorporated in the text, especially under the sections devoted to the several months.

8. '*The Condor*,' Vol. viii. Nos. 1-5 (1906).

[*The Condor*, a Magazine of Western Ornithology. Edited by Joseph Grinnell. Vol. viii. 1906. Santa Clara, California.]

We are glad to say that '*The Condor*' has survived the great earthquake and is still "well and lively." The first five numbers of the present year have been duly issued. Mr. Joseph Grinnell is now Editor, and Mr. W. L. Finley and Mr. W. B. Fisher are his associates. The articles naturally refer almost entirely to the birds of the "Far West," but there are some capital photographic illustrations. We may call attention to the pictures of the cyrc of the Golden Eagle (*Aquila chrysaetos*), which "is not now common anywhere, but is yet found in small numbers in the mountainous regions of the west, especially in portions of California." There are some interesting letters from Mr. R. C. McGregor, who has lately shifted his quarters to Manila, and is busily engaged in researches into the rich and varied Ornis of the Philippine Archipelago. There is a complete set of '*The Condor*' in the library of the Zoological Society of London.

9. *Cowan on some Birds of New Zealand.*

[Notes on some South Island Birds and Maori Associations connected therewith. By J. Cowan. Trans. New Zealand Inst. 1905, vol. xxxviii. p. 337.]

Mr. Cowan, who is evidently an authority on Maorian folklore, gives us an account of the information on certain birds in the extreme south of the South Island obtained from some of the very few well-instructed natives "that have survived to these days." These stories relate to the *Notornis* (called by the natives *Takahea*), now nearly, if not quite, extinct, but formerly, it appears, very plentiful, the *Roa* or Apteryx, the migratory Cuckoo (*Eudynamis taitensis*), the Bell-bird, the Mutton-bird, and others, and are well worthy of record.

10. *Dubois on Ornithological Occurrences in Belgium.*

[Nouvelles observations sur la Faune ornithologique de Belgique. Par le Dr. Alph. Dubois.]

Dr. Dubois gives us notes on the occurrences of rare birds in Belgium—*Hierofalco canalicans*, *Turdus obscurus*, *T. atrigularis*, *Dryocopus martius*, &c.,—in continuation of former communications on the same subject (*cf.* 'Ornis,' ix. p. 127).

11. *Foerster and Rothschild on Two new Paradise-Birds.*

[Two new Birds of Paradise. By Prof. F. Foerster and the Hon. Walter Rothschild, Ph.D. Issued October 1st, 1906, at the Zoological Museum, Tring. Price 6d. 3 pp. 8vo.]

These two "most remarkable birds" were discovered in the mountains of German New Guinea by the "veteran collector Walms," from whom particulars as to the locality and altitude are expected.

Astrapia rothschildi Foerster is nearest to *A. nigra*, and *Parotia wahnesi* Rothschild to *P. helenæ*, but both are apparently quite distinct. The specimens were exhibited at a meeting of the B. O. C. on the 17th of October last (see Bull. B. O. C. xix. p. 8).

12. *Hartert's Remarks on Creepers, Titmice, and Reed-Warblers.*

[Some Common-sense Notes on Creepers, Titmice, and Reed-Warblers. By Ernst Hartert. *Ornis*, vol. xiii. p. 58.]

Dr. Hartert insists on the specific distinctness of the two European Creepers *Certhia familiaris* and *C. brachydactyla*, of which only the former is represented in England. He also gives us some instructive remarks on the Titmice belonging to the groups *Parus ceruleus*, *P. major*, and *P. palustris*, and maintains the specific rank of the "Willow-Tit," "widely spread in England." He likewise comments on the difficulty of distinguishing skins of the two Reed-Warblers *Acrocephalus streperus* and *A. palustris*, although everybody allows "that they are two different species." We confess that we are still sceptical about the so-called *Parus salicarius*, and should like to know what Mr. Saunders will do with it in the next edition of his 'Manual.'

13. *Hellmayr on a rare Bittern.*

[Note on a rare Bittern (*Zebrius pumilus*). By C. E. Hellmayr. *Ornis*, vol. xiii. p. 56.]

This note gives much information respecting a rare South-American Bittern (*Zebrius pumilus*), and seems to prove that the rufous phase of plumage is that of the male bird and the blackish that of the female.

14. *Jourdain on Hybrids of the Black-Game and Pheasant.*

[On the Hybrids which have occurred in Great Britain between Black-Game and Pheasant. By the Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain. *Zoologist*, 1906, pp. 321-330, pl.]

In this article Mr. Jourdain discusses the records of the hybrids cited, and considers fifty of them to be authenticated. Only some four instances of this cross seem to be known from the Continent. One of the records from Derbyshire is corrected.

15. *Lönberg on the Birds of the Island of South Georgia.*

[Contributions to the Fauna of South Georgia.—I. Taxonomic and Biological Notes on Vertebrates. By Einar Lönberg. With 12 plates and 7 figures in the text. Kongl. Svenska Vet.-Ak. Handl. Band 40, no. 5. Upsala and Stockholm, 1906. 104 pp.]

This memoir gives an account of the birds collected in the Antarctic island of South Georgia by Mr. Erik Sörling, a Taxidermist of the Natural History Museum of Stockholm, who was sent out to join Capt. Larsens's whaling-station on that island, and remained there from November 1904 to September 1905. The bird-life of South Georgia had been previously well investigated by the German Expedition of 1882-3 and the Swedish Expedition of 1902, but Sörling's collections and observations have added at least one species to the list of breeders and have supplied us with much fresh information. His field-notes are ample and of much interest.

The Avifauna of South Georgia is now known to consist of about 29 species, including occasional stragglers. The only Passerine bird is a Pipit (*Anthus antarcticus*). The Penguins obtained by Sörling were *Pygoscelis antarctica*, *P. papua*, and *Aptenodytes patagonica*, all of which breed in the island, *P. papua* being the most common. The Cormorant of South Georgia is designated as a new subspecies under the name *Phalacrocorax atriceps georgianus*.

16. *McGregor on Birds from Mindoro, Philippines.*

[Notes on Birds collected in Mindoro and in small adjacent Islands. By R. C. McGregor. Philipp. Journ. of Sc. vol. i. no. 6. Manila, 1906.]

The scientific papers of the "Bureau of Science" of the Philippine Government are now collected together and published as 'The Philippine Journal of Science.' The sixth number of vol. i. of this Journal, which we have lately received, contains an ornithological paper by Mr. McGregor, of which we have given the title above. It is an account of the specimens collected by Dr. E. H. Porter on the coast of Mindoro and on some small adjacent islands, amongst

which are examples of 13 species not previously recorded from Mindoro. An interesting occurrence is that of White's Thrush (*Turdus varius*), of which a male was obtained at Bulalacao, Mindoro, on December 7th, 1905. Previous records of this species in the Philippines have been made by Tweeddale (Manila) and Whitehead (Lepanto, Luzon).

17. *Martorelli on the Birds of Italy.*

[Gli Uccelli d' Italia, con 236 Fotoincisioni da acquarelle e fotografie originali dell' autore e con 6 Tavole a colori del medesimo. Per Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. 1 vol. 4to. 678 pp. Milano, 1906.]

Count Arrigoni degli Oddi's stout little 'Manual of the Birds of Italy,' noticed in 'The Ibis' for 1904, p. 461, is followed by the larger and in all respects more important quarto written by our Foreign Member, Professor Martorelli. This contains descriptions of 463 species recognised as having occurred in Italy, and it may at once be said that wanderers have to shew a pedigree of good repute before they attain promotion from mere mention in a foot-note to the honour of a numeral. The systematic arrangement is that which has been adopted in the 'Hand-list of Birds in the British Museum,' and begins with the Galliformes, working upwards to the Passeres. The descriptions of the species, their general distribution, and their special localization in Italy are all adequately given; while on occasions where an illustration could be of any use there is either a full-page black plate or a figure in the text. These 236 illustrations are, as a rule, most spirited, and those of the Grey Plover, Glossy Ibis, Great White Heron, Bittern, immature Flamingo, Griffon and Egyptian Vultures, Kite, and Marsh-Harrier seem particularly successful; that of the Marbled Duck also deserves mention because of the unusually correct delineation of its crest. Of the six coloured plates those of the Goosander and the Golden Oriole are pre-eminent, and then comes, in the Appendix, the crowning glory of the book in pl. vi., with the portrait of the young Wedge-tailed Gull (*Rhodostethia rosea*) which, as mentioned in 'The Ibis' for 1906, p. 394, was obtained early in January of that year

in the bay of Cágliari, Sardinia. That island maintains its reputation for giving asylum to interesting species, such as the Barbary Partridge, Flamingo, Eleanora Falcon, Audouin's Gull (misspelled *Audouin* by a very common printer's error), the Black Vulture, though in decreased numbers, and other conspicuous birds; while it contains the only breeding-place of the White-tailed Eagle known to us in the western half of the Mediterranean, two nestlings having been sent to Prof. Martorelli by a friend at Oristano. The records of the occurrences of many arctic and subarctic species in Italy will surprise some of our readers; but the author's style is so clear that the language need give them little difficulty, while in any case the results will repay the trouble. Altogether this is an excellent book.—H. S.

18. *Palmer on Game Protection.*

[Federal Game Protection: a Five Years' Retrospect. Game Protection in 1905. (Reprints from Yearbook of [U.S.] Department of Agriculture for 1905.) By T. S. Palmer. Pp. 541-562, 611-617.

Game Laws for 1906. A Summary of the Provisions relating to Seasons, Shipment, Sale, and Licences. By T. S. Palmer and R. W. Williams, Junr. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Farmer's Bulletin, No. 265. 54 pp.

Directory of Officials and Organizations concerned with the Protection of Birds and Game, 1906. By T. S. Palmer. U.S. Department of Agriculture. Bureau of Biological Survey, Circular No. 53. 16 pp.]

Game protection has of late years been receiving great attention in the United States, and the three pamphlets under consideration shew that the efforts of its promoters, far from being relaxed, are from year to year redoubled, and are, fortunately, meeting with great success both as regards the Federal Government and the several States. Special areas continue to be set apart for the preservation not only of big game but of various species of birds, while the different States are coming more into line in this matter, and are, one after the other, appointing Game-wardens. New laws are passed, the old are more strictly enforced with better effect, and such important matters as close seasons, hunting permits, and limited "bags" are receiving serious consideration. Since the first General Federal Game-Law in 1900 much has

been done, and the scope of Protection has been widened to include birds' eggs and such species as are used for millinery purposes — in the latter case with especially gratifying results. Game-birds are constantly imported to increase the stock, the Capercaillie, Black Game, and so forth have been introduced in a way unknown in other countries, while the Secretary of Agriculture is not only entrusted with the supervision of all imported species, with the view of protecting Agriculture from pests, but is empowered to collect and publish all information likely to be useful.

The annexed maps give an excellent idea of the action of the various States, the spread of the doctrine of preservation, and the different Reserves.

19. *Parrot on the Corvidæ.*

[Zur Systematik der paläarktischen Corviden. Von Dr. C. Parrot. Jena : 1906, pp. 257-294.]

This article, reprinted from the 'Zoologische Jahrbücher,' contains an account of the Palearctic Corvidæ (namely *Corvus cornix*, *C. corone*, *C. macrorhynchus*, *C. m. japonensis*, *C. m. leuallanti*, *C. corax corax*, *C. c. umbrinus*, and *C. c. caecolotl*) as understood by the author. The whole question of their status is brought under discussion as well as their points of difference and relations to kindred forms.

20. *Rey's Eggs of Middle European Birds.*

[Die Eier der Vögel Mitteleuropas. Von Dr. Eugène Rey. Band i. Text. Band ii. Tafeln. Kohler : Gera-Untermhaus, 1905. Price (abt.) £3.]

Dr. Rey's work on the eggs of the Birds of Middle Europe, of which we noticed the commencement in 'The Ibis' for 1900 (p. 212), is now complete in 30 parts, and, as finally arranged, forms two solid octavo volumes, the first of which contains the text (682 pp.) and the second the plates (128 in number). We spoke favourably of this book in our previous notice, and need not repeat what was there said. It is certainly a cheap work for its price, and will be found convenient for reference by our egg-collecting friends. The letterpress is in some cases rather concise, but contains most of the necessary particulars.

21. *Salvadori on new Birds from Uganda.*

[Nuove specie di Uccelli. Boll. Mus. Torino, xxi. No. 542, 2 pp.]

Count Salvadori sends us an article on *Bycanistes aloysii*, n. sp. (near *B. subquadratus* Cab.), from Entebbe; *Anthoscopus roccatii*, n. sp., also from Entebbe; *Lagonosticta ugandæ*, n. sp. (near *L. congica*), from Fort Portal; and *Xylobucco aloysii* (near *X. consobrinus*), from the neighbourhood of Entebbe. Of each of these one example only was brought home by the Expedition of the Duke of Abruzzi to Ruwenzori.

22. *Schillings's 'Flashlight and Rifle.'*

[With Flashlight and Rifle, a Record of Hunting Adventures and of Studies in Wild Life in Equatorial East Africa. By C. G. Schillings. Translated by Frederic Whyte, with an Introduction by Sir H. H. Johnston, G.C.M.G., K.C.B. 2 vols. 8vo. Hutchinson & Co.: London, 1906.]

This is a translation into English of a work which we have already noticed (see 'The Ibis,' 1906, p. 205) and commended to our readers. It is specially interesting for the numerous pictures, some 300 in number, "taken by day and night from the author's untouched photographs." Most of them, as was to be expected, relate to "large game" and other mammals, but some portray birds. Sir Harry Johnston's "Introduction" is interesting and amusing, and will, we trust, strengthen the present movement for the protection of animal-life in our African Colonies.

An appendix to the second volume contains a "Synopsis" of Herr Schillings's collection of Birds, written by Dr. Reichenow. We are told that it comprises more than a thousand skins, which are referred to 355 species.

23. *Sharpe on the Ornithological Literature of 1905.*

[Zoological Record, Vol. xlii. 1905. III. Aves. By R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., &c. 88 pp. Price 6s. Sept. 1906.]

After a very short preface, which records the completion of three important German works (the new edition of 'Naumann,' Reichenow's 'Vögel Afrikas,' and Rey's 'Eier der Vögel Mitteleuropas'), the titles of the ornithological

publications of 1905 are given in alphabetical order. In many cases the Families, for which reference to the Systematic division should be made in order to obtain further particulars, are indicated. The total number of "titles" in the List is 742, the corresponding number in the 'Record' for 1904 was 679.

The "Subject-Index," which forms the second portion of the 'Record,' refers to the works on each subject by the numbers attached to them in the list of "titles."

In the third ("Systematic") division of the 'Record,' which extends to no less than 48 pages, the information acquired on each group of birds in 1905 is collected together, and all is arranged in systematic order according to the author's well-known classification. It thus becomes easy for the student of any particular group to ascertain what additions and corrections have been made to our knowledge of it during the year in question. We need hardly point out that this is of great assistance to the working ornithologist.

We are pleased to be able to state that it has been settled that from the beginning of this year (1906) the 'Zoological Record' of the Zoological Society of London (of which Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's article forms a section) shall be amalgamated with the zoological portion of the International Committee's 'Catalogue of Scientific Literature,' to which we have called attention on a former occasion (see our remarks in 'The Ibis,' 1904, p. 645). The result will be that the waste of money and energy caused by having the same piece of work done by two different sets of Recorders and separately published will be saved by this praiseworthy arrangement.

24. *Sharpe and Chubb on a new Tree-Partridge.*

[On a new Species of *Arboricola*. By R. Bowdler Sharpe and Charles Chubb. *Ornis*, xiii. p. 133.]

Arboricola graydoni, sp. nov., from Borneo, "has hitherto been called *A. charltoni*, but seems to be distinct," and is named after Mr. P. N. Graydon, who sent the specimen to the British Museum from the Lamag Estate in Sandakan.

25. *Warren on the Birds in the Natal Museum.*

[First Report of the Natal Government Museum. Year ending 31st December, 1904. Pietermaritzburg, 1906.]

The new Director, Dr. Ernest Warren, is able to give a good account of the progress of the Natal Government Museum since its removal into its present quarters in 1894. He devotes the first portion of his Report to a description of the various rooms and of the collections which they contain, and gives many illustrations of the different departments. The second portion of the Report contains catalogues of some of the collections, amongst which is one of the "Birds, Birds'-nests, and Eggs." The mounted specimens of Birds are arranged in one series, according to Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's classification, and consist principally of South-African and British specimens. It is, no doubt, necessary to have a more or less complete General Collection, but the Natal Museum should, in our opinion, also have a special series of the native birds of the Colony either mounted or in skins, and this we hope will be provided in due course.

Dr. Warren has also started a new Journal ('Annals of the Natal Government Museum'), of which we have seen the first number (vol. i. part i.). "It will deal almost entirely with South-African matters—Geological, Zoological, Botanical, and Ethnological."

VIII.—*Letters, Notes and Extracts.*

WE have received the following letters addressed "To the Editors of 'The Ibis'" :—

SIRS,—As you ask me for any personal evidence that I can give as to the habits of the Honey-guide, I send you the following particulars :—

In September 1905 I made the journey from Umtali to Melsetter, walking along the beaten track, accompanied by seven or eight natives. At one place I saw a small bird about the size of a Lark apparently following my party, and occasionally perching on the trees near the road. I asked one of